

WEEKLY BULLETIN 28

Lochaber Rotary

Wednesday 30 September 2020

Welcome to Edition 28 of our little Weekly Bulletin - initially intended to run for 12 weeks at the most - finishing on 19 June!!!

Take heart from last week's announcement by the First Minister "and although it doesn't feel like it now, this pandemic will pass. It won't last forever. And one day, hopefully soon, we will be looking back on it, not living through it".

This week's Bulletin was started last week as Ken and Kath are away for a week's break in Portpatrick, near Stranraer. ("Come back soon" says acting Bulletin editor John....)

This week's lunch meeting will take start at 1pm today and Secretary John will send you the joining code. President Richard is hoping for a good turnout of members.

Last week's Rotary Lunchtime meeting was hosted by John Hutchison and chaired by President-Elect Simon. Among the topics discussed were:

- Knitvity Tree: Mike reported that MacPhersons Welding are progressing with fabrication of our steel framed tree, 4m tall and 2.5m diameter at the base. A further section could be added in future if necessary. Ropes can then be hung round the frame and the knitted and crocheted items can be attached with clothes pegs. We need to explore and agree on (1) potential venue for its display as we move towards Christmas and (2) storage space for the frame. Again, Sheana and John are asking members for help and ideas. See poster and photos overleaf.
- Members general chit-chat: Mike is waiting for a new kitchen to be fitted; Vice-President Flora has been working from home, being a grannie, community councillor, running Voluntary Action Lochaber, and sadly lost her 14-year old dog. Malcolm has also been on grandpa duty and is also awaiting a new kitchen; Paul has been golfing at the Spey Valley course at Aviemore; the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Committee is back on stream; he is preparing for his talk at Rotary; Ken was concerned that his Moorings Hotel voucher would be honoured by the new owners; and he is off on holiday for a week last Friday: Simon reported that guest house business is tailing off; John Hu gave us an update on the Knitvity Tree project as well as reporting that the number of residents infected in Kinlochleven has risen to seven.

- Surcharge for deliveries to the Highlands: Paul was alarmed that the cost of delivering stainless steel clout nails to Lochaber was more than the cost of the nails! This view was shared by all of us. John H explained that a various petitions had been raised and there was word of a website to help folk find less expensive options.
- Meeting in the Alex: It looks increasingly like our physical meetings will not recommence until next year - hopefully in time for our famous Burns Supper Lunch
- Honorary Member Charlie Moore: John didn't visit Charlie this week because of the restrictions but all appears well. (He certainly looked fine for his 80th when we sang the Two Gendarmes, dressed in bin bag capes ! - J)



'Knitvity' Project

We need your help to create a giant Christmas tree made up of hand knitted or crocheted hats, scarves, wrist warmers, gloves, snoods, twiddle muffs, etc. using double knit / chunky yarn in bright colours.

Could you knit or crochet for the tree? We can supply yarn.

Do you have unused yarn/wool leftover from other projects?



Acting Bulletin editor John writes: this has been a busy week with several zoom meetings and a 2½ day weekend 'Hopin' conference. In some ways these virtual meetings are more debilitating than real life. There were two features on the delay to the new Belford in the Herald last week and I've written too. Another letter has gone to Boyd Robertson, Chair of NHS Highland from Messrs Sedgwick, Foxley, Robinson and me. The Belford delay was raised as an urgent item at the Lochaber Area Cttee of the Highland Council on Monday and the Area Chair will write to NHS and the Cabinet Secretary. The story will also be front page in Lochaber Times this week. We could see ourselves back at the 2,800 turnout public meeting of 11 November 2003 though it will need to be on the shinty pitch this time!

Stop Press Tuesday: "Moorings Hotel closed and West Highland College UHI student self-isolating". With guesthouses around whose customers regularly eat at the Moorings, things seem rather close.

But, to finish on high note, in a story about Sean Connery in the Herald last Monday I spotted this picture of a local lady who had been an extra when "Highlander" was filmed in 1985 and, with some detective work, managed to let her know. The Rosie's will recognise their friend Sheena MacGillivray.

